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COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN FOR

REMEDIAL DESIGN

REMEDIAL ACTION

AND

OPERATION & MAINTENANCE

AT

COLBERT LANDFILL



WASHINGTON STATE
DEPARTMENT OF
E C O L O G Y

DECEMBER 1990

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Community Relations Plan for Remedial Design,
Remedial Action and
Operation & Maintenance
at Colbert Landfill
October 31, 1990

This Community Relations Plan replaces all earlier versions.

A. Overview of the Community Relations Plan

This Community Relations Plan identifies community concerns about the Colbert Landfill site, located approximately 2.5 miles north of Colbert, Washington, in Spokane County. This plan discusses community relations efforts that will occur during the Remedial Design/Remedial Action (RD/RA) and Operation and Maintenance (O & M) phases of the cleanup. (Please refer to the glossary section of the document for definitions of the different steps in the superfund process). This document is a revision of the Community Relations Plan that was developed in September 1989. Interest in this site has been extensive since 1980, when residents first complained to the Eastern Regional Office of the Department of Ecology and to the Spokane County Utility Department (SCUD), that hazardous materials were being disposed of at the landfill.

This plan is designed to insure that the community is provided with adequate information about progress of the cleanup work being done at the site and also offers the opportunity to provide comments and ask questions at key points in the process. Because the public interest in the site has existed for so long, many of the mechanisms needed to provide the information are already in place. This plan continues those community relation efforts which have proved to be the most successful in providing relevant information to the affected community and provides a structure for timing and methods for future activities.

This community relations plan has the following sections:

- * Overview
- * Site Background/History
- * Community Concerns

- * Community Relations History
- * Timing and Distribution Information
- * Signed Agreement Letter between EPA, Ecology and Spokane County
- * Appendices

Information regarding community concerns and community relations methods and timing in this plan are based on interviews conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) on July 17 and 24, 1989. Elected county officials and county employees, as well as representative members of the community were interviewed. Spokane County has hired Landau Associates, Inc., of Edmonds Washington, to implement Phase 1 of the RD/RA portion of the cleanup. Ecology and EPA have joint responsibility for overseeing the RD/RA efforts at Colbert.

B. Site Background/History

The Colbert Landfill is a forty-acre site owned by Spokane County. It operated from 1968 through 1986, when it was filled to capacity. The landfill accepted both municipal and commercial waste. It is located in the southeast corner of Section 3, Township 27 North, Range 43 East, WM and is approximately 15 miles north of Spokane, Washington and 2.5 miles north of the town of Colbert, Washington. The area surrounding the Colbert Landfill is predominantly semi-rural with an estimated population of 1500 people living within a three mile radius. The closest residents are located to the north and east of the landfill.

In 1980, area residents alerted Ecology's Eastern Regional Office to disposal practices at the site. Subsequent investigation of local drinking water sources by Spokane County and Ecology identified that residential wells were contaminated with 1,1,1-trichloroethane (TCA). Further studies documented that TCA and other chlorinated organic solvents were in the ground water and were contaminating residential wells. This contamination was the basis of listing the Colbert Landfill on the EPA National Priorities List (NPL) in October 1983.

The Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) (please refer to the Glossary for definitions) was submitted for public review in May 1987. Based on the findings of the RI/FS, EPA issued its "Record of Decision" (ROD) in September 1987. The ROD outlines the plan for controlling

the migration of ground water contamination by pumping and treating contaminated ground water from the affected aquifers. Treated ground water will be discharged into the Little Spokane River. Before the implementation of the EPA-selected remedy, a Consent Decree and Scope of Work was negotiated between the regulatory agencies involved (Ecology and EPA) and three of the Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) (Spokane County, Key Tronic Corporation, and Fairchild Air Force Base). Other PRPs have been identified but as yet are not contributing to the cleanup efforts at Colbert.

In the Consent Decree, Spokane County agreed to conduct the RD/RA and O & M in accordance with State and Federal Superfund laws (Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act [CERCLA] as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 [SARA] and the State Hazardous Waste Cleanup Act [70.105B RCW]). This decree was signed in U. S. District Court on February 28, 1989, and cleared the way for remedial activity to begin as described in the Scope of Work contained in the Consent Decree.

C. Community Concerns

On July 17 and 24, 1989, EPA and Ecology representatives conducted interviews with members of the Colbert community as well as elected county officials and county employees. The following is a summary of the concerns expressed by those interviewed.

- * Property Values: This was a common theme from those living near the landfill. Opinions varied as to whether the loss of property value in the area was perceived or real. One interviewee noted that a neighbor had recently sold property at \$20,000 below the assessed value and suggested that the "stigma" placed on the area was the reason for the lower price. Blame for this "stigma" was placed mostly on negative media attention. One official noted that the Colbert area is ripe for development and property values have not really dropped as a result of the Colbert situation.
- * Effects on Little Spokane River: Remedial plans include discharge of treated ground water into the Little Spokane River. Concern was expressed that this additional water will increase erosion and

flooding problems for river-front property owners. Concerns were also raised that the treated water will pollute the river with contaminants which cannot be removed by the planned air stripping process.

- * Air Pollution: Some people interviewed expressed concerns that the method of removing contaminants from ground water (i.e., air stripping) will cause air pollution problems because the contaminants will be volatilized and discharged into the atmosphere. Those raising this concern also expressed strong sentiment that the ground water contaminant plume must be controlled. Many also raised concerns that the stripping towers may add to an already bad fog and black ice problem along the roadways in winter because of the vapor discharge.
- * Impacts on Property: Because the affected area is so large, many of the remedial facilities will need to be placed on private property. Concerns about location and aesthetics of these facilities and right-of-way issues was common.
- * Well Drawdown: The remedial measures are expected to pump approximately 200 gallons of water per minute (gpm) from the shallow aquifer and approximately 1600 gpm from the deep aquifer. Concerns were raised about water draw down in privately owned wells, both in and out of the contaminated area, due to the large volume of water being pumped. One interviewee raised the question of water rights and how the remedial measures to be taken might affect them.
- * Private Well Monitoring Program: Almost everyone interviewed said that the private well monitoring program, in place since 1987, should continue.
- * Pace of Cleanup Process: Many expressed concerns over the slow rate of cleanup to date. While progress has been made, the cleanup has been very time consuming.
- * Information: This concerned everyone interviewed for one of many reasons. A need for more trust between the county government and the citizenry was expressed and a better exchange of information was suggested as the key. Many felt that the media needed be brought into the information flow and should be encouraged to report some of the

good things happening in the area. Some suggested this might help alleviate the "stigma" many blame the press for creating. A call was made for clear, concise, and accurate information. Priority methods for dissemination of information varied, but all felt newsletters (fact sheets) were effective. Many said the Colbert Cleanup Committee (CCC) meetings had been constructive in verbal exchange of views. This committee was made up of representatives of Colbert area citizens, Key Tronic Corporation, Spokane County, Ecology, a county "citizen-at-large," and a facilitator. Opinions on the need to continue the CCC meetings varied as did the views on the frequency of newsletters and public information meetings.

D. Community Relations History

Community concerns about groundwater contamination at Colbert Landfill has been high since 1980, when local residents complained to Ecology and the County that hazardous materials were being disposed of at the landfill. At that time, Spokane County hired a consultant to study the extent of the contamination. The county also began a community relations program that included a public information effort to explain the study to local residents. The county distributed fact sheets and press releases about the Colbert situation, notified well owners of their test results, and established an information repository at the Colbert Water District Building.

The county also held seven public meetings between May 1981 and November 1983, explaining each phase of the study and test results. Representatives from several agencies, including Spokane County Health District and the County Tax Assessor's Office were available to respond to questions. Citizens expressed numerous significant concerns at these meetings. The primary concern was whether or not the well water was safe for drinking or other purposes, and what the potential health impacts might be from drinking the water. Residents were also concerned about how the contamination would affect their property values.

There were three official responses to the concerns mentioned above. In March 1983, Spokane County and Key Tronic Corporation began supplying bottled water to those homes where wells had over 1,000 parts per billion (ppb) of 1,1,1-trichloroethane (TCA). Shortly afterward, the Spokane County Tax Assessor reduced the assessed valuation of homes with wells at or above this contamination level and of the homes within 3/4 mile of the landfill. In response to continued public requests for safe drinking water supplies,

the County, State and Key Tronic paid for the extension of the Whitworth Water District lines into the contaminated area. Because regulatory levels for TCA contamination had dropped from 1000 ppb to 200 ppb, domestic wells exceeding 200 ppb of contamination were connected to the waterline extension.

In the fall of 1985, local residents, not satisfied with County response to their requests, formed the Colbert Landfill Contaminant Area Committee (now referred to as the Colbert Landfill Cleanup Action Committee [CLCAC]). The group's purpose was to collect information and make it available to interested people. In December 1985, this group presented seven recommendations to the Spokane County Commissioners. The major requests were: free water hookups for all homes in the contaminated area, with no water payments for twenty years; reevaluation of property in the area; and continued well monitoring for twenty years. The County's response continued the policy of hooking up only those homes which exceeded specific contaminated levels. The citizens saw this as too restrictive, which increased their frustration.

Ecology and EPA met frequently with concerned citizens and County and Key Tronic representatives between 1985 and 1987. Ecology held a public meeting in 1986 to explain the RI/FS process and to discuss the results of the RI. Ecology and EPA distributed a fact sheet, called a Proposed Plan, in April 1987 which discussed the numerous cleanup options presented in the Feasibility Study. This fact sheet also announced the public comment period and a public meeting scheduled for May 1987. The main purpose of this meeting was to explain the cleanup alternatives and the options for treating the contaminated water, and to accept public comment. Over 200 people, primarily local residents, attended. The citizens' major concerns regarding the FS were the shortness of the comment period (which was then extended), the concentration on the County, Fairchild Air Force Base, and Key Tronic without searching for other potentially responsible parties, potential air pollution from the air stripping, and ground water level drawdown caused by the extraction system.

In August 1987, Ecology distributed a notice of a public meeting to take place in September at the Bishop Topal Center in Colbert to discuss the comments and concerns brought up at the public meeting held in May and during the FS comment period. Two sessions were held for citizen convenience. Also in August 1987, an update was distributed by Ecology which summarized comments received during the FS comment period.

In January 1989, a Consent Decree (please refer to the Glossary for a definition of Consent Decree) for RD/RA and O&M phases of the Colbert cleanup was signed. Parties to this Decree were EPA, represented by the U.S. Department of Justice, Ecology, Spokane County, and Key Tronic Corporation. Ecology and EPA produced and distributed a fact sheet announcing a public meeting and comment period for the decree. This fact sheet also provided a basic summary of the potential impact and results of the Consent Decree. The public meeting announced in the fact sheet occurred in early February 1989 at the Colbert Elementary School. Ecology and EPA explained the consent decree and took public comments. These comments were forwarded to the U.S. District Court Judge in Spokane as part of the Consent Decree package.

In May 1989, a public meeting was held at the Colbert School to introduce Landau Associates, Inc. to the Colbert community. This firm was hired by the County to complete the RD/RA and O & M phase of the cleanup process. Members of the Landau team were present to answer questions, as were County, Ecology, and EPA officials.

In July 1989, interviews were conducted by Ecology and EPA to be used in updating the Community Relations Plan for Colbert for the RD/RA and O & M. The plan was finalized in September 1989 and provides guidance for community relations efforts through these phases.

On August 21, 1990 a public meeting was held at the Lakeside Recovery Center in Colbert. The purpose of the meeting was to provide Landau Associates, Inc. an opportunity to discuss the pilot pump and treat system with the community and to answer any questions they had.

In December 1990, the Community Relations Plan was revised to incorporate community concerns.

E. Techniques and Timing

The following activities will be undertaken by Spokane County, Ecology and EPA during the Remedial Design (RD), Remedial Action (RA) and O & M phases of the Colbert project. The following describes the minimum requirements under State and Federal law. Effective public involvement process requires active participation by Spokane County, Ecology and EPA and continued communication with the affected citizens.

- * Preparation and Distribution of Fact Sheets:
Informational fact sheets will be produced on a regular basis during the RD/RA phases of the

cleanup, then on an as needed basis during the O & M phase. Fact sheets will be used to update the public about mobilization activities, design milestones and any other information deemed pertinent by Spokane County, Ecology or EPA. Fact sheets will be used as a tool to answer questions and concerns raised by citizens either in writing, by telephone or by being asked at the citizen group meetings. The fact sheets will also announce citizen meetings and any other item that the citizen group feels should be addressed. Fact sheets will be used to notify the public in the event of activities or findings which were not anticipated or which, if not explained, could be alarming to the public. Fact sheets will be provided to those on the Colbert Landfill mailing list and any other individual, firm, or agency requesting them. The EPA will be responsible for initiating these fact sheets with concurrence and oversight by Spokane County and the Department of Ecology.

- * Update of Mail List: The Colbert Landfill mailing list will be updated regularly by the EPA using information obtained from Spokane County.
- * Public Involvement and Input: Opportunity will be provided for comment on, and provide input into the aesthetic qualities of the permanent extraction, treatment and discharge structures. The interest shown in the past by area residents should be tapped to gather input on landscaping, color or any other aspect the public views as important. Input can initially be from small advisory groups, but the design process can have meaningful impact on the aesthetic issues until a public meeting is held to present and accept ideas on the final appearance of the system. Because more specifics will be known at that time, the community should also be brought to date on locations of permanent facilities, progress and problems, as well as provided the opportunity to ask questions. During these phases (RD, RA, O & M informal public meetings will be held to provide the public more opportunity to ask questions and/or be updated on the progress. Ecology and EPA will make the final determination on this issue and will host the meetings if necessary.
- * Information Repositories: Information repositories will be updated by Spokane County as needed, but not less frequently than semi-

annually. A list of materials placed in the repositories will be provided to Ecology and EPA. Technical information, reports, fact sheets, and any other information Spokane County, Ecology or EPA determine is relevant should be placed in them.

SUPERFUND PROCESS GLOSSARY

CERCLA:

the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, the original law which authorized the EPA to identify, investigate and cleanup hazardous waste sites. This law was passed by Congress in 1980 and amended by SARA in 1986. CERCLA is also known as Superfund.

Community Relations Plan (CRP):

a document that outlines the activities that will be undertaken by the Community Relations Program at a particular hazardous waste site. A Community Relations Plan must be written for every Superfund Site where the cleanup action will take longer than forty-five days.

Community Relations Program:

a program which is required by Superfund legislation and is designed to maintain communication between those planning and implementing the cleanup process and local residents and officials.

Consent Decree:

a formal, legal agreement between EPA, the Potentially Responsible Parties, and a state lead agency (if there is one involved) which details what will take place during the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study.

Consent Order:

a document identical to a Consent Decree except that it is not entered with the courts.

Cooperative Agreement:

an agreement which allows a state agency to act under EPA's oversight in leading a Remedial Response or a Removal Action.

Cost Recovery:

a legal process in which state or federal government agencies can require those responsible to pay part or all of the money spent on the cleanup of a contaminated site.

Effluent/Emission:

any hazardous substance discharged into the environment.

Endangerment Assessment

A study conducted during the Feasibility Study to determine the magnitude and potential of impacts from a release or threatened release of hazardous substances from the site.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):

the federal agency charged with protection of public health and the environment. EPA administers federal Superfund money at hazardous waste sites on the National Priorities List to investigate and clean them up.

Expedited Response Action (ERA):

a cleanup action at a Superfund Site in which there is an obvious solution to a threat or potential threat of a release prior to the completion of the Remedial Investigation. An ERA must be consistent with the final cleanup plan. This is the implementation of a Removal Action.

Feasibility Study (FS):

a study which uses the information from the Remedial Investigation to develop and evaluate a list of potential cleanup options. It also includes an Endangerment Assessment.

Hazard Ranking System (HRS):

a method of ranking a hazardous waste site so that it is possible to compare the potential risks from the site in question to those risks posed by other sites across the country. The site score is based on types of waste found at the site and the proximity of the site to population areas. A site which scores highly in this system is considered for placement on the National Priorities List.

Hazardous Waste:

any solid, liquid, or gaseous substance which, because of its source or measurable characteristics, is classified under state or federal law as hazardous and subject to special handling, shipping, storage and disposal requirements.

Hazardous Waste Cleanup Operations Program (HWCOP), Washington Department of Ecology:

a program in Ecology that evaluates and corrects problems at hazardous waste sites in Washington state. Ecology and their contractors or Responsible Parties initiate the cleanup. Ecology supervises Responsible Party cleanup.

National Contingency Plan (NCP):

the federal regulation guiding the Superfund process. The NCP requires that EPA select the most cost effective cleanup alternative that is technically feasible and protects public health and welfare, as well as the environment.

National Priorities List (NPL):

the list of the hazardous waste sites which the Hazard Ranking System has shown to require the most immediate action. Sites nominated to this list are eligible for federal funding for Remedial Investigation, cleanup and design and are considered Superfund Sites. Sites accepted to this list are also eligible to receive federal funds for Remedial Action.

the final step in the cleanup process which involves long term monitoring of the effectiveness of the remedial action and maintenance of the cleanup equipment.

Priority Pollutants:

pollutants listed by EPA under the Clean Water Act as having priority for regulatory controls because they are considered most harmful to human health and the environment.

Potentially Responsible Parties (PRP's):

see Responsible Parties.

Preliminary Assessment:

an initial investigation into a prospective hazardous waste site to define its boundaries and to determine whether a site inspection is necessary. This is done primarily through the use of existing aerial photographs, soil surveys and geological surveys.

Quality Assurance/Quality Control:

a system of procedures, checks, audits and corrective actions investigators use to ensure that field work and laboratory analysis during the investigation and cleanup of a hazardous waste site meet established EPA standards.

Record of Decision (ROD):

a document presenting EPA's formal selection of the preferred cleanup alternative and the rationale for their decision. The ROD also includes the Responsiveness Summary.

Remedial Action (RA):

the actions taken to provide a long term corrective solution to the contamination at a hazardous waste site. This action is carried out as specified by the Remedial Design.

Remedial Design (RD):

the process of developing the design and engineering plans to implement the Remedial Action. It is based on the recommendations of the Feasibility Study.

Remedial Investigation (RI):

an extensive examination of the ground and surface water, air, soil and sediments at a hazardous waste site and in the surrounding areas to determine the extent and types of contamination. This investigation provides the information necessary to develop corrective solutions in the Feasibility Study.

Remedial Response:

a long term "permanent" response to the contamination at a hazardous waste site. This is in contrast to a Removal Action which is limited in time and magnitude.

Removal Action:

a short term action to cleanup a hazardous substance or waste site that threatens human welfare or the environment. These actions are typically limited to twelve months and a total budget of two million dollars.

Responsible Parties:

those who are responsible for causing hazardous substances to contaminate the environment. Responsible parties include the person or companies that generate, transport, or improperly manage the hazardous substance.

Responsiveness Summary:

an agency summary and response to all the comments received during the Remedial Investigations and Feasibility Study and the Feasibility Study comment period on the proposed cleanup alternatives.

~~SARA~~

the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 which amended CERCLA. SARA increased the superfund revenues, EPA's authority to do removal and Remedial Actions, the required levels of public participation and the amount of state involvement in the Superfund process.

Site Investigation/Inspection:

the initial sampling and inspection of a hazardous waste site to determine whether it should be placed on the National Priorities List.

State Priority List:

hazardous waste sites on which the Department of Ecology is or would like to be working. This list includes National Priorities List sites, State Priority Sites, and EPA emergency cleanup sites.

Superfund:

the federally funded program to clean up hazardous waste sites nationwide. It was established under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, and amended in 1986 by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act.

APPENDIX I

LIST OF CONTACTS

APPENDIX I

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Federal Elected Officials

Senator Brock Adams (202) 224-2621
513 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

or

770 U.S. Courthouse (509) 456-6816
West 920 Riverside
Spokane, Washington 99210

Senator Slade Gorton (202) 224-3441
730 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

or

697 U.S. Courthouse (509) 456-2507
West 920 Riverside
Spokane, Washington 99210

Congressman Thomas J. Foley (202) 225-2006
1201 Longworth HOB
Washington D.C. 20515

or

W. 601 First Avenue #2W (509) 456-4680
Spokane, Washington 99204-0300

State Elected Officials

Senator Gerald L. Saling (206) 786-7608
115-B Institutions Building
Olympia, Washington 98504

or

12515 North Fairwood Drive
Spokane, Washington 99218

Representative Shirley Rector
332 House Office Building
Olympia, Washington 98504

(206) 786-7962

or

East 13222 Farwell Rd.
Spokane, Washington 99207

Representative Jean Silver
413 House Office Building
Olympia, Washington 98504

(206) 786-7792

or

7102 Audubon Drive
Spokane, Washington 99208

Local Elected Officials

Commissioner John R. McBride
West 1116 Broadway
Spokane, Washington 99260

(509) 456-2265

Federal, State, and Local Agency Contacts

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Ms. Grechen Schmidt, Community Relations
Coordinator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Superfund Branch
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98101

(206) 442-7177

(206) 442-1283

Mr. Michael Kuntz, Project Manager
Ms. Teri Fisher, Community Relations
Specialist
Washington Department of Ecology
Toxics Cleanup Program
Mail Stop PV-11
Olympia, Washington 98504-8711

(206) 438-3079

(206) 438-3075

Mr. Dean Fowler
Spokane County Utilities Department
North 811 Jefferson Street
Spokane, Washington 99260-0180

(509) 456-3604

APPENDIX II

LOCATION OF INFORMATION

REPOSITORIES

APPENDIX II

LOCATION OF INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

North Spokane Library
East 44 Hawthorn Road
Spokane WA 99218

Colbert Elementary School
East 4526 Green Bluff Road
Colbert WA 99005

Washington State Department of Ecology
Eastern Regional Office
North 4601 Monroe Street
Spokane WA 99205-1295

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle WA 98101

Washington Department of Ecology
Hazardous Waste Investigations
and Cleanup Program
Mail Stop PV-11
Olympia WA 98504-8711

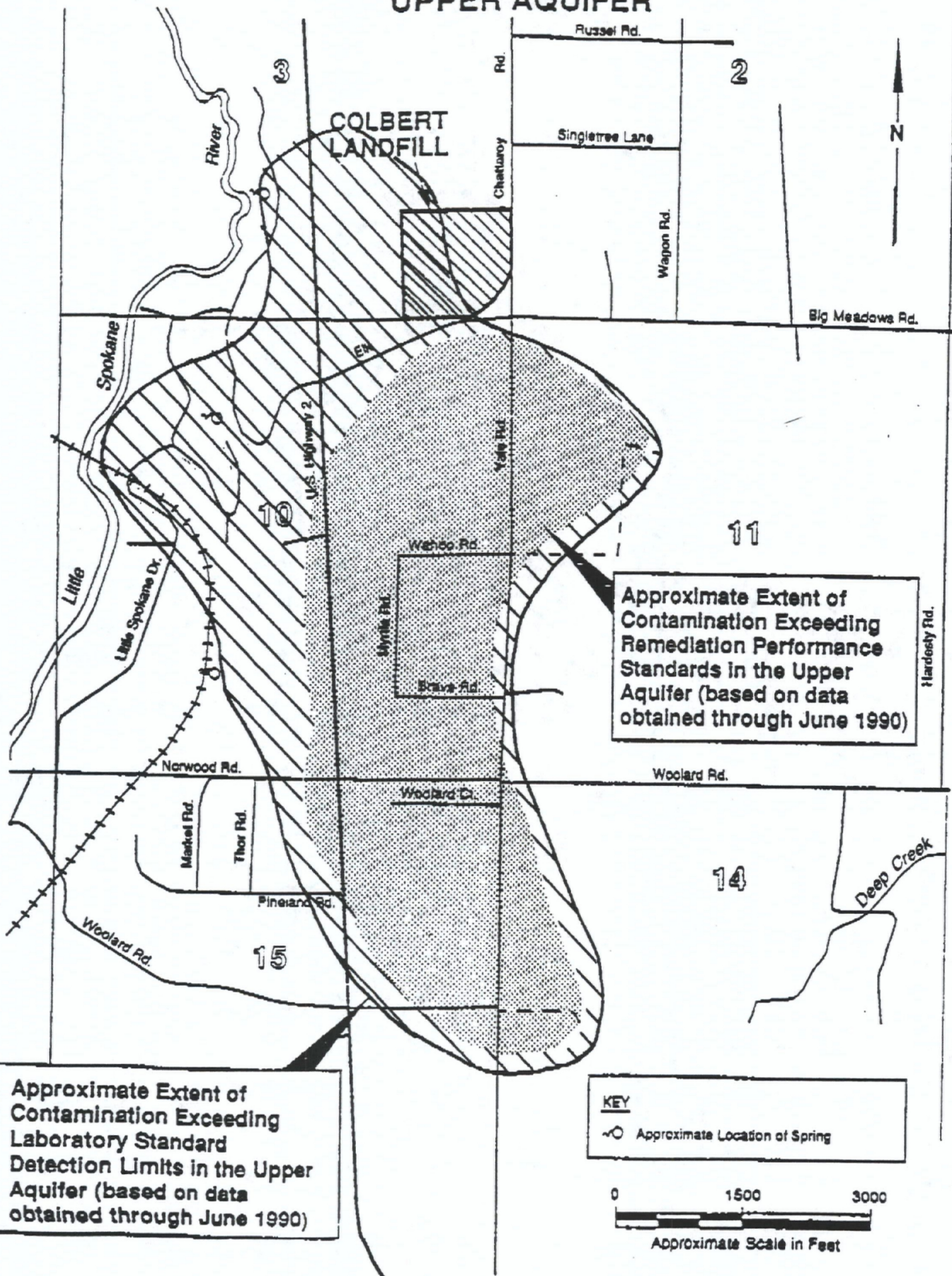
building is located at;

4415 Woodview Drive
Lacey WA 98503

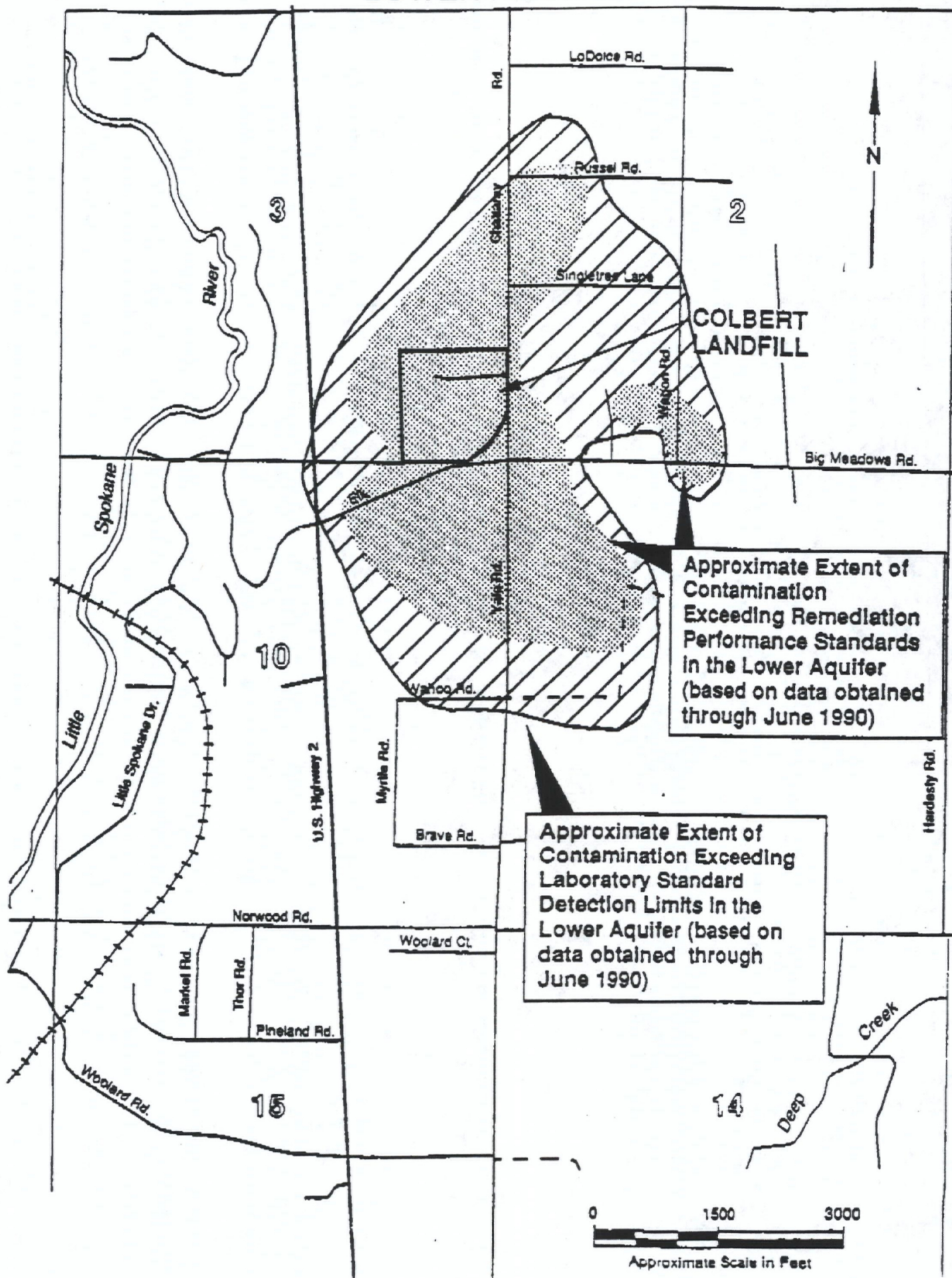
APPENDIX III

AREA MAPS

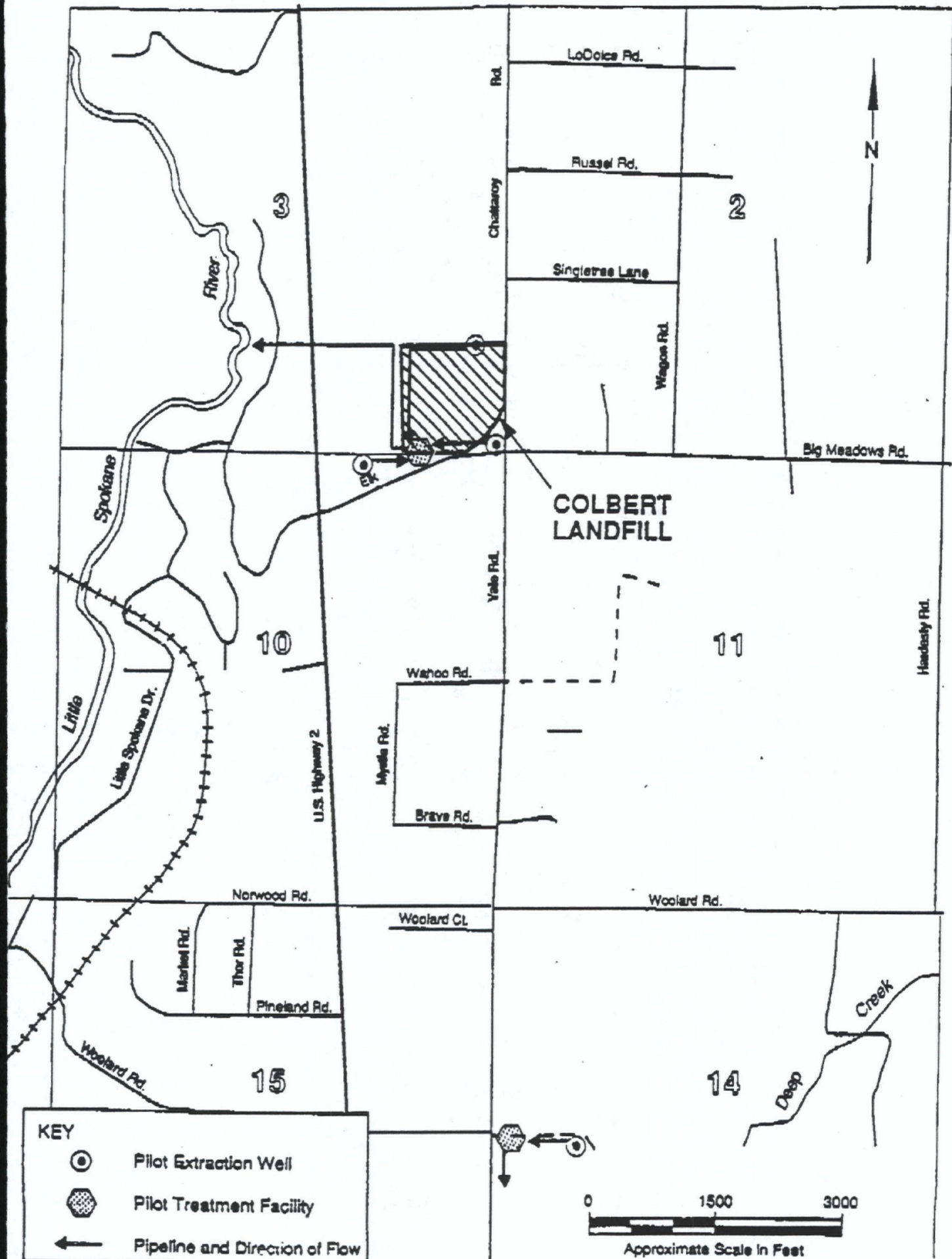
EXTENT OF CONTAMINATION UPPER AQUIFER



EXTENT OF CONTAMINATION LOWER AQUIFER



PHASE I PILOT STUDY SYSTEM SCHEMATIC



TREATMENT SYSTEM SCHEMATIC

